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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 105-16624

Miami, Florida
OCT 24 1969

RE: EJERCITO LIBERTADOR CUBANO
(CUBAN LIBERATING ARMY) (ELC)
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

71A
Cuba

The Ejercito Libertador Cubano (ELC) was formed in 1968 by members of the ~~Asociacion de Veteranos de Bahia de Cochinos, Brigada 2506~~ ~~AVBC~~ ~~Association of Veterans of the Bay of Pigs, Brigade 2506~~. The purpose of the organizers of the ELC was to attract to its membership the militant Cubans of other exile organizations and to unite under the banner of the ELC. They were attempting to develop a policy of positive military action against the Government of Cuba. After developing considerable interest among Cuban exiles and raising funds, the ELC was disrupted by internal dissension and allegations of misappropriation of the funds. As of January, 1969, the ELC was no longer active.

On January 30, 1969, ~~MARCOS VALDES CASTILLA~~, then residing at the ~~Sylvania Hotel, 226 Southwest Fifth Avenue, Miami, Florida~~, was interviewed and advised that he had been an active member of the ELC and that he was not aware of any plans on the part of the ELC to conduct any militant activities. VALDES said that as of that time, the ELC was inactive and had closed its office.

71A
N.Y.
Cuba

On August 22, 1969, MM T-1, who is familiar with both pro and anti-CASTRO activities in the Miami area, advised that the ELC, which he described as the military arm of the AVBC, which had been inactive since the fall of 1968, had been reactivated under the leadership of ~~LUIS TORNES~~. A meeting of the ELC was held at an office

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

105-183162-9

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(JRK)

ENCLOSURE

EJERCITO LIBERTADOR CUBANO (ELC)

an intense exchange of fire with the communists guarding the installation and with sailors on a boat patrolling the shore, the commando group was able to retire, having achieved its objective and without injuries. The release was signed by Dr. ~~ARMANDO FERNANDEZ~~, Venezuelan delegate of the Ejercito Libertador Cubano, at Caracas, Venezuela, August 21, 1969. The release also contained a notation that additional details of this action would be given at a press conference which would be held in the city of New York by one of the leaders of the ELC, LUIS TORNES. *Cuban*

On August 28, 1969, MM T-3, a Cuban who is acquainted with the leaders of the principal anti-CASTRO organizations in the Miami area, advised that on August 23, 1969, LUIS TORNES, in a confidential conversation, remarked that he was connected with the "Cuban Liberation Army" and that he had practically separated from the leadership of the AVBC, which had originally started the ELC. TORNES said that secret cells of the ELC were being created in order to carry out operations abroad as well as inside the United States. He said that he was leaving for New York City, where he would hold a press conference in connection with the recent attack on Cuba and at the same time work on preparing the secret commandos who will operate in the United States.

71A On August 25, 1969, MM T-4, a Cuban who has been involved in revolutionary activities during the past eleven years, advised that with regard to the claim by LUIS TORNES and the ELC that they had recently made a raid on Cuba and had engaged a Cuban patrol boat, he had discussed this with ~~FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ TAMAYO~~, a close associate of LUIS TORNES. RODRIGUEZ stated that this report by TORNES was a fabrication which TORNES was using to justify the money which he has been collecting from Cuban businessmen in the Miami area.

On August 29, 1969, MM T-1 reported that he had attended a meeting of the ELC on August 28, 1969, at the office of the organization located at 1878 West Flagler Street, Miami. JOSE M. MACIAS was present at this meeting and he admitted confidentially that although he had been among those who had previously claimed that he had participated in the attack on Cuba on August 18, 1969, in

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-183162)

DATE: OCT 24 1969

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (105-16624)(P)

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT. KP 11-19-97
SLD/KSR
1-17-98
(JFK)

SUBJECT: EJERCITO LIBERTADOR CUBANO
(CUBAN LIBERATING ARMY (ELC))
IS - CUBA
(OO: Miami)

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DATE 4/1/95 BY SP6mic/602
(JFK)

Re Miami teletype dated 8/22/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM
containing current information on the activities of the ELC.
Copies are being disseminated locally to:

U. S. Secret Service, Miami, Florida
NISO, Charleston, South Carolina
111th M.I. Group, Orlando, Florida
Cuban Affairs (State Department), Miami
CIA, Miami
U. S. Coast Guard, Miami
U. S. Border Patrol, Miami
U. S. Customs, Miami and Region II, Miami
INS, Miami
OSI, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

Confidential informants utilized in this LHM are
as follows:

MM T-1 is MM 1248-S.
MM T-2 is RICARDO MORALES NAVARRETE.
MM T-3 is MM 1337-S.
MM T-4 is MM 974-S.

In view of efforts on the part of LUIS TORNES
to reactivate the ELC, Miami will continue to follow its
activities through MM 1248-S.

2 - Bureau (Enc-9)
1 - Miami
WMD:sll 9 ENCLOSURE
(3)

State/CIA/Secret Service/RAO
Army/Navy/Air Force/DIA/Customs/Coast Guard
Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, State
By R/S For Info
Date 10-30-69 By [signature]

15 OCT 27 1969

LATIN-AMERICAN

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